(a) the criteria laid down for allocation of natural gas by the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL);

(b) whether GAIL has not been allocating gas to the new applicants for the last few years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to improve availability of gas in the country and ensure its allocation to all the eligible applicants; and

(e) whether GAIL has formulated any long term policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Natural gas is allocated by the Government. These allocations are based generally on the Imputed Eonomic Value of gas use subject to preference being given to the power and fertiliser sector.

(b) and (c) Since the gas projected to be available was mostly allocated by 1990, very little gas was allocated thereafter. Allocations made recently include 1.4 MMSCMD to Mathura Refinery, 0.6 MMSCMD to industrial units around Agra and gas from isolated pools in Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

(d) and (e) The availability of gas from domestic sources is being increased by development of new fields and additional development of some existing fields. The Government is also examining the feasibility of importing natural gas LNG.

Food Processing Projects in Bihar

251. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Food Processing Projects sanctioned in the State of Bihar during 1994-95 and also proposed to be sanctioned during 1995-96;

(b) the employment generation capacity of these projects in terms of man-days; and

(c) the export capacity of these food processing projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) During 1994-95 and 1995-96, two proposals have been approved for setting up of 100% Export Oriented units for manufacture of fruit juice concentrate in the State of Bihar. Apart from these 7 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda have also been filed during the same period for setting up of various Food Processing Units in the State of Bihar. As per available information, the proposed direct employment generation in these projects would be approximately 622 persons and the targeted exports during the first 5 years would be Rs. 16 crores approximately.

Financial assistance to Food Processing Industries in Andhra Pradesh

252. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided financial assistance under Plan Development Scheme to Food Processing Industries sector in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) the details of other incentives Government propose to give to the entrepreneurs for setting up of food processing industries in Andhra Pradesh?